

## Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Requesting Additional Appropriations for Response and Recovery Efforts in Areas Struck by Hurricane Katrina

September 7, 2005

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

On September 2nd, I signed into law Public Law 109–61, the “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005,” which provided \$10.5 billion in emergency supplemental funds for hurricane-related disaster relief.

Due to the catastrophic nature of Hurricane Katrina, I am asking the Congress to consider the enclosed request, for an additional \$51.8 billion, for emergency FY 2005 supplemental resources for the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security and the Army Corps of Engineers.

I hereby designate this proposal in the amount requested herein as an emergency

requirement. This request responds to urgent needs associated with immediate response and recovery efforts associated with Hurricane Katrina in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and other affected areas.

I urge the Congress to act expeditiously on this request to ensure that the Federal response to this disaster continues uninterrupted. I anticipate making a further request that will provide for additional response and recovery efforts after further assessing the impact of the hurricane.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

## Remarks on Hurricane Katrina Recovery Efforts

September 8, 2005

I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who have joined me today. Today I’m going to take this opportunity to speak directly to our citizens who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Many of you have been evacuated from the flooded and destroyed areas and now find yourselves far from home, without proper identification or even a change of clothes. So today I’m announcing two important steps that we are taking to provide you the help you need, steps that will cut through the redtape so that we get that help into your hands as quickly and easily as possible.

The first step is providing every household with \$2,000 in emergency disaster re-

lief that can be used for immediate needs such as food or clothing or personal essentials. For those of you who are living in the large shelters, such as the Houston Astrodome, I know that you don’t have cars or transportation and cannot get yourself to the centers to collect these funds. I also know that some of you do not have access to a savings or checking account or ways to cash a check. FEMA and Red Cross teams are either—are working or soon will be working with your shelters to meet your challenges and to get assistance into your hands as soon as possible. By registering for the first \$2,000, you will begin the process of arranging for the delivery of other, longer term assistance that will be made available in the coming weeks for eligible